

TROPICAL STORM LOLA (26W)

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Lola, the last of four tropical cyclones to develop in October, formed in the South China Sea. It tracked westward along the same path taken by Tropical Storm Jeana (24W) four days earlier.

II. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 150600Z - First mentioned on the Significant Tropical Weather as an area of convection associated with a weak low-level cyclonic circulation underneath a weak upper-level anticyclone.
- 160530Z - Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert based on increased organization associated with a surge of northeasterly winds coming off the coast of China.
- 170600Z - First Tropical Depression Warning issued due to a continued increase in organization as the system moved into an area of weaker vertical wind shear.
- 171200Z - Upgraded to a tropical storm due to an increase in organization associated with less vertical wind shear.
- 180000Z - Peak intensity - 40 kt (21 m/sec) - followed a small improvement in organization and an intensity estimate of 2.5.
- 181800Z - Final warning issued as Lola dissipated over land.

III. TRACK AND MOTION

Lola started in the monsoon trough on 15 October and tracked south of a narrow mid-level subtropical ridge for the next five days. Until landfall on the coast of Vietnam on 18 October, the track was consistently south of west because of the strong northeasterly low-level surge across the northern portion of the South China Sea.

IV. INTENSITY

Lola developed when a strong northeasterly surge spun up the low-level circulation. Reaching minimal tropical storm intensity on 17 October, Lola continued to intensify very slowly until it made landfall a day later (Figure 3-26-1). After landfall, the low-level cyclonic circulation persisted, as it crossed into Thailand, and dissipated just before entering the Bay of Bengal.

V. FORECASTING PERFORMANCE

Overall JTWC forecast performance is shown in Figure 3-26-2. Objective aid guidance and mid-level steering flow was used by forecasters; however, due to the strong low-level northeasterly surge Lola consistently tracked south of the forecasts.

VI. IMPACT

No information received.

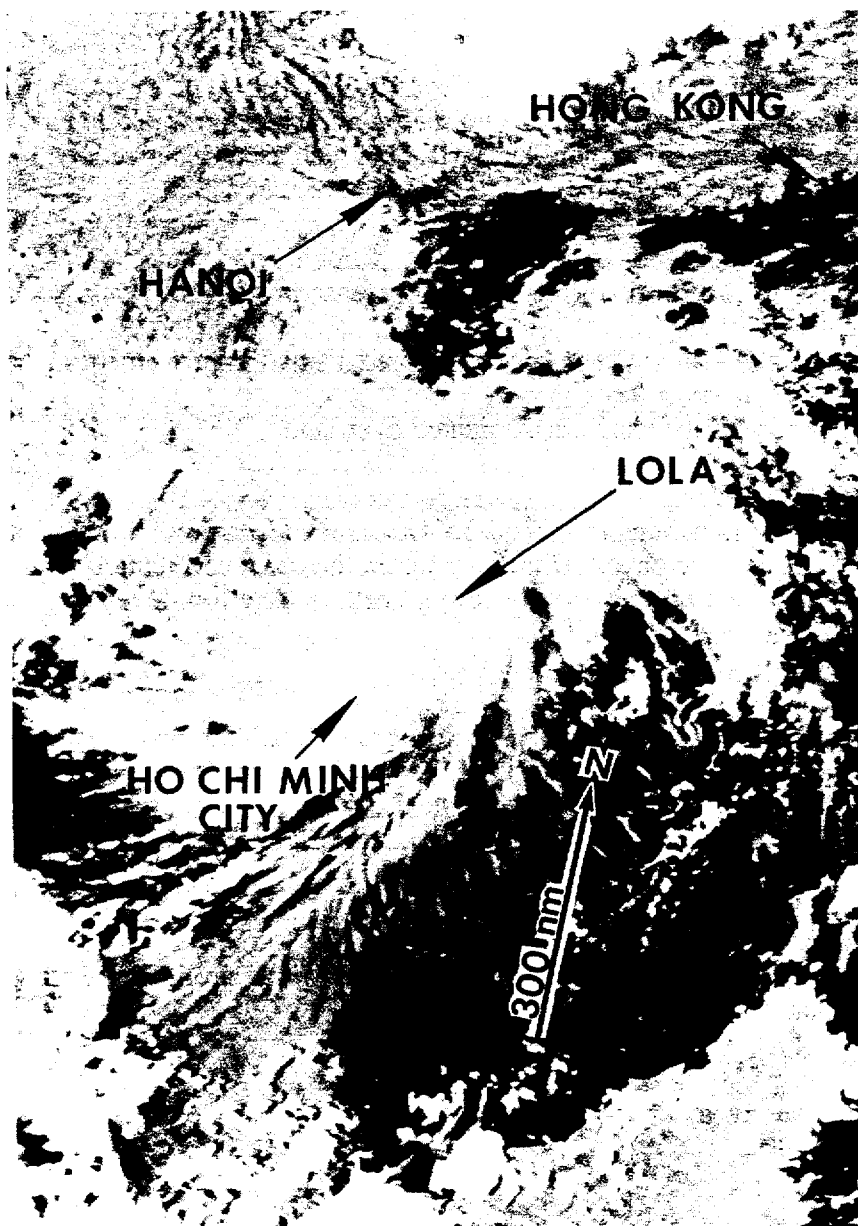


Figure 3-26-1. Lola at maximum intensity (180643Z October DMSP visual imagery).

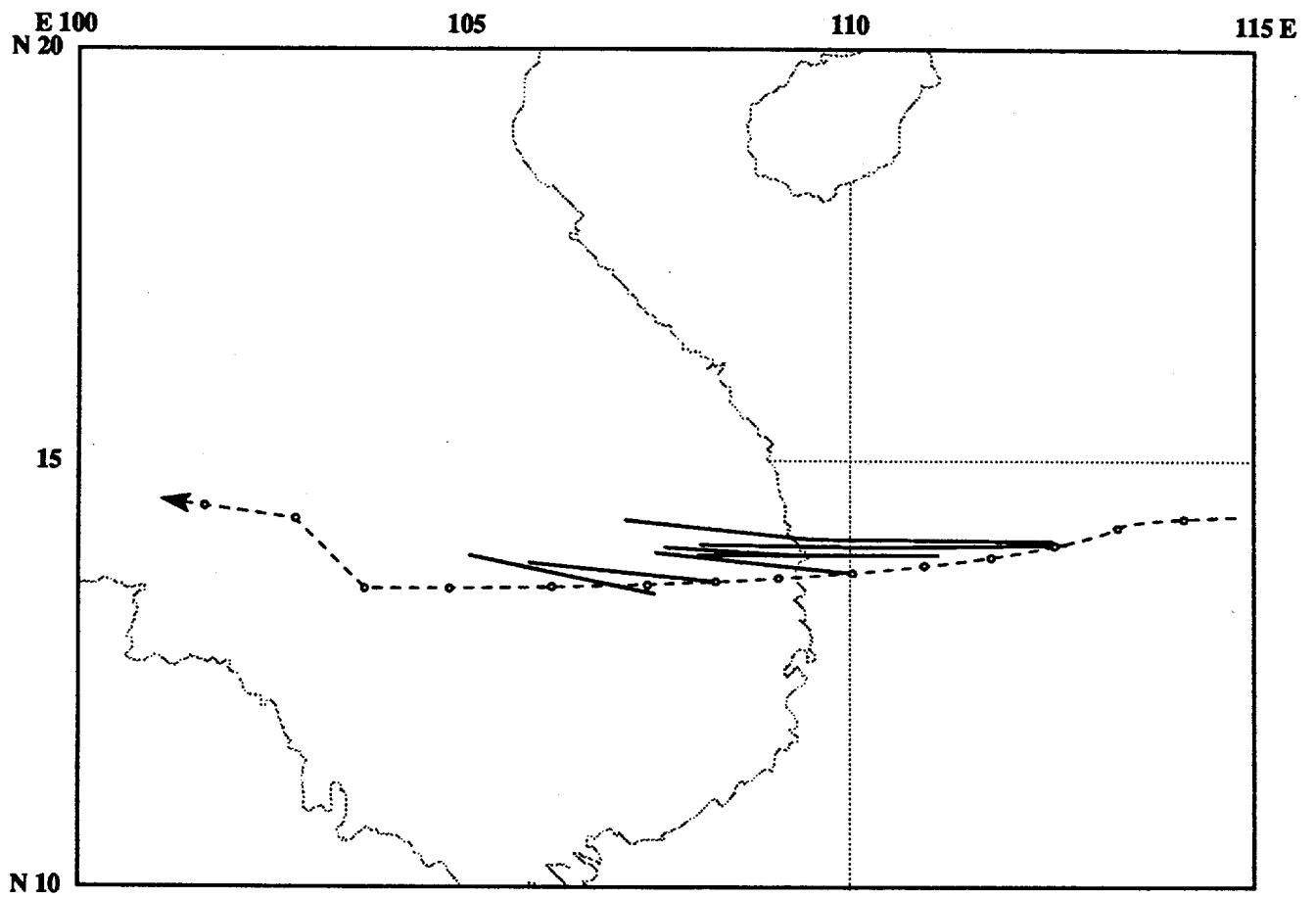


Figure 3-26-2. Summary of JTWC forecasts (solid lines) for Lola is superimposed on the final best track (dashed line).